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 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

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COUNTRY East Germany

DATE DISTR. 1 May 1953

SUBJECT VP Unit in Oranienburg Castle

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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3.

a KVP unit in Oranienburg Castle which had reached an estimated total strength of 1,700 to 1,800 men with replacements. The installation, allegedly, quartered: a tank course of about 240 men; a heavy AAA course of about 300 men; and a signal course of about 140 VPs, including female personnel. Colonel Hermann Leberer,

was school commandant.

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Mass officer at the installation was Senior Lieutenant Iuedke (fmu).¹

2. VP details arriving at the installation between 5 January and 17 February included:
- 5 January. One company arriving by road from Neustrelitz, one from Prenzlau and one from Angermuende. The soldiers wore yellow-bordered rose-colored epaulets.
 - 12 January. One company arriving by truck from Neustrelitz and one from Prenzlau. The soldiers wore red-bordered green epaulets.
 - 7 February. An AAA company of about 130 unarmed men from Pasewalk. The personnel wore red-bordered green epaulets.
 - 17 February. An AAA company of about 130 men without heavy weapons from Greifswald.
- In January, about 80 recruits arrived. Prior to 12 February, a total of 120 to 160 women were issued uniforms at the Castle and given signal training.²

3. Arms arriving at the Castle included:

- 19 December. Seven AA guns of about 100-mm caliber; the guns arrived by road from the direction of Sachsenhausen.
- 27 December. Five AA guns of about 100-mm caliber; the guns also came from the direction of Sachsenhausen.
- 20 January. A total of 500 carbines and 30 heavy machine guns from Subl.

4. On almost from 19 December to 25 February, five groups of 12 to 15 men each were given training on five AA guns. About 10:15 p.m. on 10 January, about 300 men armed with small arms in addition to light and heavy machine guns left the installation for a night exercise in Schmachtenhagener Forst, behind Lehnitz Lock. On this occasion, the school commandant and two Soviet officers were seen in sedan

trucks followed the march column. On 12 January, four trucks including all of them loaded with carbine ammunition, entered the castle. On 20 January, two courses for radio operators were started. The courses were scheduled to last until 31 March. After 14 January, training on 2 or 3 T-34 tanks was repeatedly observed.

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On 16 February, a signal detail was given training on two radio trucks.

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5. During the reported period, 10 barracks for MI were being erected in the athletic field near the Castle. Another 40 such buildings were to be built soon. A radio installation was being established in the sport restaurant behind the athletic field.²
6. On 15 January, a large-scale recruiting campaign for the VP was started in all industrial enterprises. The personnel managers of these enterprises were ordered not to hire workers of the 1923 through 1935 classes. Prior to 2 February, the recruiting commission had visited the Hennigsdorf steelworks, the IFA plant in Hennigsdorf, the Byk-Gulden firm in Oranienburg and the Alcid plant in Oranienburg. The recruiting commission was fairly successful.

7. [redacted] a VP AAA unit in Pasewalk [redacted] was to move to the boundary of Berlin in the first half of March.⁴ 25X1

8. Comment. Oranienburg Castle houses an AAA officer school, which moved there from Prora in November 1952. Tank and signal courses held at this installation were reported for the first time. In January 1952, Colonel Levenenz was reported as commandant of this AAA officer school when it was in Pinnow.

2. Comment. This personnel may have been surplus personnel transferred from Armeegruppe Nord. As the Sachsenhausen concentration camp seems also to be occupied by VP, it is believed that a new IVP unit was being activated in Oranienburg. The information on the service colors observed is doubted. 25X1

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